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ELGAR
FHP: . S . . .

STAFF

CONF: EUR-8 INFO: ODPD-D, VH, FILE, DURECORD, NE-6, (19/P)

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DIRECTOR 457764

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STAFF 141558Z DIRECTOR 457764

TO: IMMEDIATE [] INFO PRIORITY [] . [] . [] . []

NNINTEL [] [] []

REF: [] []

1. REQUEST [] PASS SUBSTANCE OF REF TO EMBASSY AND/OR TEAM SUPPORTING CARTER VISIT WITH ADDITION FOLLOWING ELABORATION:

2. RAOUL WALLENBERG, BORN 1912, WAS SWEDISH DIPLOMAT IN BUDAPEST DURING WW II. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF JEWS BY ISSUING THEM SWEDISH PASSPORTS WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO ESCAPE HUNGARY. IN JAN 1945 WALLENBERG WAS ARRESTED IN BUDAPEST BY THE SOVIETS, TRANSFERRED TO THE SOVIET UNION, AND INCARCERATED. HE THEN DISAPPEARED. AFTER REPEATED INQUIRIES FROM THE SWEDES, THE SOVIETS INFORMED THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IN THE MID-50'S THAT WALLENBERG HAD DIED IN A MOSCOW PRISON IN 1947. NUMEROUS AND RECURRING REPORTS, HOWEVER, HAVE SURFACED SINCE 1955 THAT WALLENBERG IS STILL ALIVE IN ONE OR ANOTHER SOVIET PRISON. HIS CONDITION AND WHEREABOUTS HAS BEEN AN ISSUE IN SWEDISH/SOVIET RELATIONS FOR YEARS. AND THE STRONG HUMANITARIAN APPEAL OF THE CASE HAS BEEN KEPT ALIVE BY THE WALLENBERG FAMILY IN STOCKHOLM, BY FORMER HUNGARIAN JEWS, FORMER PRISONERS OF THE SOVIETS, BY SWEDISH PARLIAMENTARIANS AND BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS.

3. AMONG THOSE WHO, OVER THE YEARS, HAVE CLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF WALLENBERG'S WHEREABOUTS IS ABRAHAM KALINSKI, A FORMER POLISH ARMY LT. COL WHO WAS IMPRISONED IN THE SOVIET UNION IN 1944 AND RELEASED IN 1959. HE SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME A SOV CIT, BUT IN 1976 HE AND HIS WIFE EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL. KALINSKI ALLEGES THAT HE SAW WALLENBERG IN VLADIMIR PRISON NEAR MOSCOW IN EARLY 1956 AND LATER, AND THAT FORMER PRISON MATES HAD SEEN WALLENBERG AT VLADIMIR AS LATE AS THE MID-60'S. KALINSKI COVERED THE WALLENBERG CASE IN DETAIL IN A JAN 79 ARTICLE IN "NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO", A NEW YORK RIGHT-WING RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE PUBLICATION. HE HAS ALSO RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY IN THE SWEDISH AND OTHER MEDIA. HIS CLAIM TO HAVE KNOWN WALLENBERG CANNOT BE VERIFIED.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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AND THERE IS SOME QUESTION ABOUT HIS BONA FIDES.

4. SIMON WIESENTHAL HAS ALSO PUBLICLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURSUING THE HALLENBERG CASE, BASED ON HIS CONTENTION THAT HALLENBERG WAS IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL IN IRKUTSK AS LATE AS 1975, A REPORT FOR WHICH THERE APPEARS TO BE NO VERIFIABLE INFORMATION.

5. FYIO: MANUS WEBER, MENTIONED IN REF, IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING HAD CZECH I.S. CONNECTIONS.

6. FILE: C J; C J RVN14JUNE99 DMV D9C.1.
ALL SECRET.
ORIG: E/SC/R C J; AUTH: C/E/SC (C J); COORD: NE/ISR;
EUR/CA C J; EUR/STE C J; EUR/G; REL:
C/E/AS C J BY C J

END OF MESSAGE

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